

PUTIN ON THE ROPES (P. 22)

- ❶ Vladimir Putin's first presidency ended in 2008 because**
 - a** his longtime nemesis Dmitri Medvedev defeated him in a close election.
 - b** Russia's constitution prevented him from running for a third consecutive term.
 - c** he resigned to work in the private sector.
 - d** illness kept him out of the 2008 presidential race.
- ❷ Putin has remained Russia's most powerful leader by serving as**
 - a** a regional governor.
 - b** interior minister.
 - c** vice president.
 - d** prime minister.
- ❸ Which statement best describes Russia in the years immediately following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991?**
 - a** Chaos reigned and the economy collapsed.
 - b** Strong leadership ensured both stability and economic prosperity.
 - c** A Western-style democracy quickly began to take shape.
 - d** The nation temporarily reverted to traditional czarist rule.
- ❹ During his presidency, from 1999 to 2008, Putin was known for**
 - a** introducing democratic freedoms.
 - b** limiting availability of consumer goods.
 - c** consolidating executive power.
 - d** discouraging foreign investment in Russia.
- ❺ The recent mass protests against Putin and his political party stemmed from**
 - a** Putin's criticism of President Obama.
 - b** a parliamentary election that many viewed as fraudulent.
 - c** a new law against independent political parties.
 - d** Russia's loss of oil revenue.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶** Why does Putin argue that Russia needs his leadership again in 2012?
- ❷** What kinds of changes did Putin make to Russia's government in the early years of his presidency? Why?
- ❸** Given Russia's history of authoritarian government, do you think it's ready for Western-style democracy? Why or why not?